

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is presently requested.

Claims 1-6 remain active in the application.

In response to the drawing objection, the specification has been amended to introduce reference numeral "34c". The drawing objection is therefore believed to be moot.

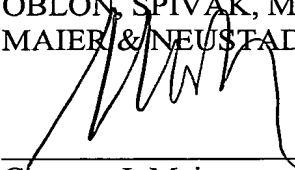
Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over U.S. patent publication 2004/0134318 (Inada et al) in view of U.S. patent 4,833,764 (Muller).

Applicants note that Inada et al is assigned to the same assignee as the present application, Toyoda Koki Kabushiki Kaisha. Accordingly, Inada et al is prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103 only as of its July 15, 2004 date of publication. It is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) with respect to the present application which is owned by the same entity as Inada et al. 35 U.S.C. §103(C). Accordingly, this rejection is improper and its withdrawal is respectfully solicited.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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